Year	Percentage of EPZs exports against the total exports of the country
1996-97	3.65
1997-98	3.70
1998-99	3.71

(c) As a measure to promote exports, the entitlements given to the units in EPZs include exemption from Customs/excise duty on capital goods, raw materials etc. tax holiday as per the Income Tax Act, re-imbursement of Central Sales Tax paid on purchase from outside the State, foreign equity participation, facility to sell a part of their production in the domestic market and an upgraded infrastructure.

INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE EXPORTS

2469. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) What steps are being taken to encourage exports by giving additional incentives;

(b) Whether it is a fact that exports market is competitive and exporters are not getting much incentives from Government;

(c) if so, the reason therefor; and

(d) When the quantitative restriction on Indian goods will be removed by America and E.U. countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) In the revised Exim Policy (RE-2000), (1997-2002) notified on 31-3-2000, Government has taken various measures to promote exports. These include setting up Special Economic Zones, rationalisation of existing export promotion schemes (EPCG and Duty Exemption/Remission Scheme), encouragement to export of quality/branded goods, procedural simplifications, de-centralisation in decision making and reduction of interface between exporters and Government organisations through the facility of electronic filing of applications at some port offices etc. All these steps are aimed at making Indian exports competitive by reducing transaction costs and time.

The USA and European countries were maintaining certain quantitive restrictions on textile items under the erstwhile 'Multi-Fibre Agreement'. However, in the "agreement on Textile and Clothing" of WTO, such restrictions are likely to be removed in the year 2005.

Export of Agricultural Products

†2470. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether incentives are given for the export of agricultural products from the country;

(b) if so, the amount of export made during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and till December 1999; and

(c) the year-wise percentage of export of wheat, rice, sugar, cotton, oilseeds, pulses and coarse grain in such exports, separately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The value of agro items exported including marine products, tea, coffee, caster oil and cotton including waste during the last three years is as below:

1997-98	Rs. 23798.37 crores
1998-99	Rs. 25224.63 crores
1999-2000 April-Dec.	Rs. 18207.80 crores

(c) The year-wise percentage of export of wheat, rice, sugar, cotton, oilseeds, pulses and coarse grains to that of total agricultural exports is as follows :

Percentage to total agro export

Commodity	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Wheat	—	—	—
Rice	13.8	24.6	12.9
Sugar	1.0	0.1	—
Cotton	1.0	0.9	0.4
Oilseeds	3.7	1.8	1.8
Pulses	1.5	0.9	1.7
Coarse grains	—	0.1	—

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.